

45A Portsdown Hill Road, Havant, PO9 3JU

Bat Survey Report

Prepared on behalf of

Mr Deng

Final Report

13 June 2019

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Report Release Sheet

Draft/Final:

Final Report

Date:

13 June 2019

Client:

Mr Deng

Report Prepared for Issue by:



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Bat Survey Report

SUMMARY

- Cherry Tree Ecology were commissioned by Mr Deng to conduct emergence/ re-entry surveys at 45a Portsdown Hill Road, Havant, PO9 3JU. These surveys were conducted to support planning application APP/19/00080 for the demolition of dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling and garages.
- A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken by Ecosupport in April 2019 which noted :
*'Based on the **High** roost assessment of the dwelling and the **Moderate** roost assessment of the garage, further surveys will be required to ascertain the presence/likely absence of roosting bats as per best survey guidelines.'*
- Three emergence/re-entry surveys were undertaken in May and June 2019, these confirmed no bats are currently roosting within 45a Portsdown Hill Road. There was low level foraging activity by bats particularly on the northern side of the building. Recommendations regards lighting design and bats has been given in Section 4.
- Mitigation has also been recommended for the building works and vegetation clearance to maintain legal compliance regards nesting birds.

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Appendix 1 Bat emergence/re-entry survey results

45A Portsdown Hill Road, Havant, PO9 3JU

Bat Survey Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Cherry Tree Ecology were commissioned by Mr Deng to conduct emergence/re-entry bat surveys at 45a Portsdown Hill Road, Havant, PO93JU (Grid Reference: SU 6913 0630). These surveys were conducted to support planning application APP/19/00080 for the demolition of dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling and garages.

1.2 A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal was undertaken by Ecosupport in April 2019 which noted :

*'Based on the **High** roost assessment of the dwelling and the **Moderate** roost assessment of the garage, further surveys will be required to ascertain the presence/likely absence of roosting bats as per best survey guidelines.'*

1.3 Cherry Tree Ecology were then commissioned to undertake these follow up surveys (two dusk emergence and a dawn re-entry for the house, and two visits for the garage – undertaken at the same time).

Site description

1.4 The buildings at 45a Portsdown Hill Road are located on an exposed position at the top of a hill, to the south west of Havant town, with Farlington to the west. The A3(M) runs to the east, with the M27 and the Solent to the south. On the other side of Portsdown Hill Road is a hedgerow and golf course, there is grassland in the close vicinity to the south west and moderate habitat connectivity along the southern garden boundaries towards the motorway corridor. A street light shines directly into the northern car parking area.

Legislation

1.5 All bat species are legally protected under Annex IV of the EC Habitats and Species Directive which is transposed into UK law via the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. All species of bat are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This legislation makes it an offence to:

- Deliberately kill, injure or capture bats;
- Deliberately disturb bats in such a way as to be likely to significantly affect: (i) the ability of any significant group of bats to survive, breed or rear or nurture their young; or (ii) the local distribution or abundance of bats;
- Intentionally or recklessly disturb any bat whilst it is occupying a roost;
- Damage or destroy bat roosts; and
- Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to a bat roost.

- 1.6 This legal protection means that where activities have the potential to impact on bats, the results of a bat survey and an appropriate mitigation strategy must be submitted to Natural England.
- 1.7 There are 17 breeding species of bat in the UK, seven of which are of Principal Importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England under Section 41 (S41) of the NERC Act 2006. There is a clear responsibility on local planning authorities to further their conservation.
- 1.8 Section 2 of the report provides details of the methodologies adopted and Section 3 provides an account of the survey results. Section 4 provides conclusions regards the results in relation to the proposed development and presents appropriate measures of best practice and mitigation where necessary.

2. METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The house was assessed as having high potential for roosting bats and as such three visits have been undertaken, emergence surveys on the 14th May 2019 and 28th May 2019, with a dawn re-entry survey undertaken 12th June 2019. The garage was assessed as having moderate potential and two visits were undertaken at the same time as the house.
- 2.2 The evening emergence survey commenced 15 minutes before sunset and continued for 1.5 hours after sunset. The dawn re-entry survey commenced 1.5 hours before sunrise and continued until, or shortly after sunrise. Two surveyors were situated at key points around the building. Echo meter touch bat detectors were used to record any bats that were seen leaving or re-entering the building. Visual observations were also used to record flight patterns and feeding behaviour to aid identification to species level. General bat activity within the vicinity of the buildings was also recorded. Notes were recorded on times, species and behaviour.
- 2.3 All recorded bat calls were subsequently analysed using the software Analook.

Constraints

- 2.4 There were no constraints on the surveys.

3. RESULTS

- 3.1 The full results and weather conditions of emergence/re-entry surveys are given in Appendix 1.
- 3.2 A dusk survey was undertaken on 14th May 2019, no bats emerged and there was low bat activity levels with single passes by noctule, common pipistrelle and long-eared bats only.
- 3.3 A dusk survey was undertaken on 28th May 2019 and recorded moderate foraging activity by common pipistrelle bats on the north side of the house, with occasional noctule passes and a single pass by a long-eared bat at 22.06 and a single pass by a soprano pipistrelle at 22.11.
- 3.4 A common pipistrelle was recorded on the northern side of the building flying east to west from the direction of the garage. Whilst this bat could have emerged from the garage the behaviour and timing (21.49) 46 minutes after dusk would indicate it flew over the garage from the east rather than emerged. A single common pipistrelle was also noted foraging in the garden to the south at 21.49 46 minutes after dusk, likely the same bat.
- 3.5 The final dawn survey was undertaken on 12th June 2019, no bats re-entered during this visit. There two faint passes by common pipistrelles were recorded at 03.33 and 03.54 only.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Whilst the previous Preliminary Ecological Appraisal suggested that the house and garage had potential to support roosting bats, no bats emerged/re-entered during the follow-up surveys. Therefore no further mitigation for roosting bats is considered necessary.
- 4.2 It should be noted that the bat surveys provide a 'snapshot' of conditions at the time of survey and does not account for changes over time. It is considered possible that bat species may move into the building in the future, therefore it is recommended that if in 3 years works have not begun a further bat survey is undertaken to ensure the conditions have not altered.
- 4.3 In the unlikely event bat(s) are encountered at any stage, work will cease and Natural England or a suitably qualified bat ecologist should be contacted for advice. All building contractors are explicitly forbidden from handling bats or interfering with bats in any way.

Lighting

- 4.4 As bat foraging and commuting activity was recorded around the buildings the lighting to be installed as part of the development will be in line with Guidance Note 08/18 Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK, the following will be required:
- LED lighting will be used and light levels will be kept as low as possible. Metal halide or fluorescent sources will not be used.
 - Lighting will be directed to where it is needed.
 - Only luminaires with an upward light ratio of 0% and with good optical control will be used, luminaires will always be mounted on the horizontal, i.e. no upward tilt.
 - Any external security lighting will be set on motion-sensors and short (1min) timers.
 - Internal lighting within the new houses will be recessed where installed in proximity to windows to reduce glare and light spill.
 - Light sources will emit minimal ultra-violet light, peak higher than 550nm and be of a warm white spectrum (ideally <2700 Kelvin).

Breeding birds

- 4.5 The buildings and ornamental vegetation within the garden provide suitable foraging and nesting habitat both for common and widespread species of bird.
- 4.6 All vegetation clearance and the demolition of the buildings should be conducted outside of the bird nesting season which is considered to run from March to September. Where this is not possible a suitably qualified ecologist should check potential nesting habitat immediately prior to clearance. Where nesting birds are encountered clearance must be postponed until the nestlings have fledged.

5. REFERENCES

Bat Conservation Trust and Institution of Lighting Professionals (2018) Guidance Note 08/18 Bats and Artificial Lighting in the UK. Bats and the built environment series.

Collins, J (ed) (2016). Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines (3rd Edition). The Bat Conservation Trust, London.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) National Planning Policy Framework.

Mitchell-Jones A.J. & McLeish A.P. (2004). The Bat Workers' Manual (3rd Edition) Joint Nature Conservation Committee.

Mitchell-Jones, A. J. (2004). Bat Mitigation Guidelines, English Nature.

Appendix 1

Emergence/re-entry survey results

Date: 14/05/2019	Sunset: 20:45	Weather conditions: Cool, breezy	Location: 45a Portsdown Hill Road			
Temperature (°C) Start: 15 End: 11	Wind Force: 2-3/12	Equipment: Tablet & EchoMeter Touch 2	Cloud: 1/8	Start Time: 20:30	End Time: 22:15	Surveyor and location: Sophie Smith northern elevation, Katie Ford southern elevation
Time	Sp. if ID'd	Number	Comments			
20:20	Noctule	1	Heard not seen in the northern side			
21:21	Noctule	1	Heard not seen in the southern side			
21:39	Long-eared species	1	Heard not seen in the southern side			
22:08	Common pipistrelle	1	Heard not seen in the northern side			

Date: 28/05/2019	Sunset: 21:03	Weather conditions: Cool and dry	Location: 45a Portsdown Hill Road			
Temperature (°C) Start: 15 End: 14	Wind Force: 1-2/12	Equipment: Tablet & EchoMeter Touch 2	Cloud: 6/8	Start Time: 20:55	End Time: 22:33	Surveyor and location: Sophie Smith northern elevation, Katie Ford southern elevation
Time	Sp. if ID'd	Number	Comments			
21:41	Common pipistrelle	1	Flew from the north circled the car park area on the north of the house foraging and then flew north			
21:47	Common pipistrelle	1	Flew from the east to west over the garage, possible emergence but behaviour indicated commute			
21:49	Common pipistrelle	1	Heard not seen in the northern side, brief pass			
21:49	Common pipistrelle	1	Heard not seen in the southern side			
21:51	Common pipistrelle	1	Heard not seen in the northern side, brief pass			
21:52	Common pipistrelle	1	Heard not seen in the northern side, brief pass			
21:53	Noctule	1	Heard not seen in the northern side, brief pass			
21:54	Common pipistrelle	1	Flew northeast to south west foraging			
21:55	Noctule	1	Heard not seen in the northern side, brief pass			
21:56 to 21:59	Noctule	1	Heard not seen in the northern side, brief pass			
22:00	Common pipistrelle	1	Heard not seen in the northern side			
22:01	Noctule	1	Heard not seen in the northern side			

22:04	Common pipistrelle	1	Heard not seen in the northern side
22:06	Common pipistrelle and long-eared species	1	Heard not seen in the northern side, foraging
22:07	Noctule	1	Heard not seen in the northern side
22:11	Soprano pipistrelle	1	Heard not seen in the northern side
22:24	Common pipistrelle	1	Heard not seen in the northern side

Date: 12/06/2019	Sunrise: 04:50	Weather conditions: Cool, dry	Location: 45a Portsdown Hill Road			
Temperature (°C) Start: 11 End: 11	Wind Force: 2-3/12	Equipment: Tablet & EchoMeter Touch 2	Cloud: 4/8	Start Time: 03:20	End Time: 04:50	Surveyor and location: Sophie Smith northern elevation, Katie Ford southern elevation
Time	Sp. if ID'd	Number	Comments			
03:33	Common pipistrelle	1	Heard not seen in the northern side, faint call			
03:54	Common pipistrelle	1	Heard not seen in the southern side			